DEF 12-5 JORDAN

37

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State* 847

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SECRET

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Action

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 333
INFO RUQMBE/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 89
RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 21
RUFHDN/AMEMBASSY LONDON 63
RUFHPA/AMEMBASSY PARIS 48
RUQMVL/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
RUCJHK/CINCSTRIKE
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BT
S E C R E T DECEMBER 7

CINCSTRIKE FOR POLAD

EMBTEL 322 - SUPERSONICS

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Duncan DATE 3/1/84
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☒ RELEASABLE☒
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

1. TWICE POSTPONED INFORMAL VISIT TO JORDAN BY UK CYPRUS COMMANDER AIR MARSHALL SIR THOMAS PRICHETT FINALLY ARRANGED THIS WEEK. BY AGREEMENT WITH JAA, RAF FLEW IN FIGHTER ESCORT OF ONE LIGHTNING III AND ONE TWO-SEAT TRAINER BROUGHT FROM UK WITH SENIOR BAC TEST PILOT. SPECIAL DEMONSTRATION HELD MORNING DECEMBER 7 DURING WHICH KING HUSSEIN PILOTED LIGHTNING TRAINER.

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2. IN CONVERSATION DECEMBER 6 AMER KHAMMASH CONFIRMED THAT HE, SHARIF NASSER AND AIR FORCE COMMANDER COLONEL KURD BELIEVED THAT ON PERFORMANCE BASIS LIGHTNING SUPERIOR TO MIRAGE AND BECAUSE LIGHTNING TWO MOTOR PLANE THERE WAS GREA SAFETY FACTOR AND LOWER ATTRITION WHICH IN LONG RUN WOULD OFFSET BETTER FRENCH ECONOMIC TERMS. HE SAID DEMONSTRATION DESIGNED LARGELY CONVINCE KING WHO STILL MOTIVATED BY STORI OF POOR LIGHTNING I PERFORMANCE AND BY FEELING HE WAS INDEBTED TO DEGAULLE. KHAMMASH DESCRIBED LATTER AS NONSENSE SINCE HE SAID DEGAULLE HAD NEVER DONE ANYTHING FOR JORDAN EXCEPT OFFER IT OPPORTUNITY BUY GOODS AND SERVICES AT NORMAL COMMERCIAL RATES.

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3. RE FUTURE KHAMMASH REITERATED DESIRE VISIT WASHINGTON FOR FRANK DISCUSSION ALL ELEMENTS INVOLVED. SAID HE RECOGNIZED WE WOULD NEITHER SELL US PLANES NOR FINANCE THIRD COUNTRY CONTRACT, BUT FELT ISSUES INVOLVED SO VITAL TO FUTURE OF WESTERN INFLUENCE IN AREA THEY SHOULD BE FRANKLY EXAMINED. VOLUNTEERED HE HAD JUST WRITTEN UAC RE STATUS PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS IN EFFORT WARD OFF PRESSURE ON JORDAN FOR EARLY DECISION, BUT INSISTED HE COULD NOT RETURN

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TO UAC TO RENEGOTIATE BASIC JORDAN REQUIREMENT; THAT REDUCTION SECURED AT CASABLANCA FROM 60 TO 32 FIGHTER PLANES WITH SAME FINANCING, FOR WHICH WE APPARENTLY DID NOT GIVE THEM CREDIT, WAS AS MUCH AS COULD BE DONE.

4. KHAMMASH GAVE IMPRESSION HOWEVER THAT HE WAS NOT CURRENTLY PERTURBED ABOUT UAC DEADLINE FOR DECISION ON PLANES SO LONG AS HE STILL IN ACTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH WESTERN POWERS AND INDICATED THAT VISIT TO WASHINGTON WOULD HELP BUY TIME UNTIL ALL PIECES FELL INTO PLACE.

5. COMMENT: BRITISH HERE WHO VARY FROM INDIFFERENCE TO EAGERNESS ON LIGHTNING SALE HAVE GONE ALL OUT ON THIS ONE AND ALLEGEDLY THIS IS FIRST TIME TWO-SEAT TRAINER HAS LEFT UK. KHAMMASH TOLD DATT BRITISH HAVE REDUCED BASIC UNIT PRICE BUT APPARENTLY NO CHANGE IN CREDIT TERMS. GP-3. BARNES
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